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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1954

"Echo" Office Haverhill

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1954, on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Clare Rural District.

The Vital Statistics show little change from previous years and are, on the whole, satisfactory, apart from a small decline in the total estimated population. It will be noted that there were fewer deaths resulting from Cancer, but it is of interest that of these cases, 3 male and 1 female, were of the lung.

No epidemics of notifiable disease occurred and only one death from Tuberculosis is recorded.

Your Public Health Committee and Officers gave consideration to matters relating to the return to the slaughtering of animals by local butchers for their own purposes.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the consideration which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the period reviewed. I should also like to thank Mr. J. Allpress, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. H. A. Smith, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

Area of the District		49,360 acres
Number of Parishes		24
Rateable Value		£36,504
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£148
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books		3014 (2989)
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	(9,606)	9420
,, (1951 Census)		9,406

SECTION B.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	(54)	56	(67)	63	(121)	119
Illegitimate	(4)	4	(1)	2	(5)	6
Totals ...	(58)	60	(68)	65	(126)	125

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) ...	(13.12)	13.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(15.88)	15.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.5)	15.5
Illegitimate Birth Rate...	(3.9%)	4.1%

Still Births:

	Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	(1)	1	(3)	1	(4)	2
Illegitimate	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—
Totals ...	(1)	1	(3)	1	(4)	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	(30.7)	16.0

Deaths:

Male		Female		Total	
(56)	58	(61)	57	(117)	115

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(12.18)	12.2
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(9.62)	9 9
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.4)	11.3
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...		Nil.

Infant Mortality :

It can expected that these rates will show considerable variation from year to year as the figures are relatively small.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(—) — (—)	1 (—)	1
Illegitimate	(—) — (—)	— (—)	—
Totals ...	(—) — (—)	1 (—)	1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births		8.1
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		8.6
(c) All Infants England and Wales	(26.8)	25.5

Rates for previous ten years :

	1944	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54
Birth Rates	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.c	18.6	17.7	17.0	15.7	12.9	15.9	15.7
Death Rates	13.4	13.8	12 6	15.1	13.9	13.3	12 2	16.9	13.7	9.6	9.9

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Measles	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Whooping Cough	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Diphtheria	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Cancer (all types)	(9) 7	(13) 10	(22) 17
Heart Disease (all forms) ...	(26) 18	(23) 12	(49) 30
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(3) 6	(12) 10	(15) 16
Diabetes	(0) 0	(0) 1	(0) 1
Influenza	(3) 0	(0) 0	(3) 0
Pneumonia	(5) 4	(3) 7	(8) 11
Bronchitis	(0) 0	(1) 0	(1) 0
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	(0) 1	(0) 0	(0) 1
Accidents (not motor vehicles)	(2) 2	(1) 0	(3) 2
Suicide	(1) 0	(1) 1	(2) 1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(7) 20	(7) 17	(14) 37
Total ...	(56) 58	(61) 58	(117) 116

SECTION C.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

(a) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts (Appointed 1st October, 1950).

(b) Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. Boulton (appointed 16th February, 1953).

HOSPITALS :

There are no Hospitals in the area.

SECTION D.

WATER SUPPLIES :

The Council's three main sources of supply are at Great Wratting, Hundon and Depden.

The chief source of supply is that at Great Wratting where water is drawn from the chalk strata and pumped to a storage reservoir at Hundon, supplying a population of about 7,500. This water has a permanent hardness of 554 (parts per million).

It is chlorinated at the source and recent examination and analysis has shown the water wholesome and fit for drinking purposes.

For the 12 months ended 31st October 57,200,000 gallons of water were pumped from these two boreholes.

The Northern part of the area is supplied with water drawn from a reservoir in the area of Thingoe R.D.C. and boosted to a 100,000 storage tower near Depden. This scheme came into use on the 18th January and supplies a population of about 2,000.

Analysis shows the water to be wholesome and fit for consumption.

Your third supply is situated at Hundon from which a supply of water is pumped direct to the Stradishall R.A.F. Station. Treatment is by two mechanical sand filters to remove iron deposit. The water on analysis is shown to be fit for drinking purposes. For the period ending 31st October 16,828,500 gallons were supplied through a bulk meter to the R.A.F. Station. This service is now inter-connected with supply mains from the Great Wratting source, and it is anticipated that during next year boosters will be installed to enable the Station to be supplied from the Wratting boreholes. The Hundon works will then be maintained for emergency use only.

In addition to the above services the Council supply water in bulk to Haverhill U.D.C. at a rate of about 916,000 gallons per year, and to the Mildenhall R.D.C. for their Dunstall Green district at a rate of about 275,000 gallons per year.

Your supply mains are connected at Hawkedon to those of the Melford R.D.C. to allow a supply from that Authority to reach the Parishes of Hawkedon and Stansfield should the necessity arise.

Water for the Melbourne Bridge area in the Parish of Withersfield is drawn from the Haverhill U.D.C. mains.

During the year 244 properties were connected to your mains and the number of metered supplies in the area has now reached 295.

WATER CARTING :

This service by the Council has now ceased.

PUBLIC PUMPS :

Whilst the majority of the 24 public pumps are not now in use, some nearby residents not drawing water from your mains still prefer pump water. The Council have, however, decided that these pumps are to be rendered unusable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

No major works have been installed during the year. The Clare scheme, covering the township of Clare, is to commence early in 1955. Whilst proposals for Cavendish have not been consented to by the Ministry it is advisable for the Council to make every effort next year in obtaining Ministerial consent to commencing this scheme which is long overdue.

I sincerely hope also the Council will consider and agree to the more urgent Village Sewerage Schemes becoming increasingly more necessary day by day as Sanitary Fittings are installed in private houses. The Council might also bear in mind the possibility of installing water closets in their pre-war houses. Many of these are in villages without sewers or disposal works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :

Dust bins are emptied from 90% of the houses in your area by a Driver and Filler and one Refuse Vehicle.

Collections take place fortnightly in 14 parishes and one per month in the remaining part of the area.

Night soil from pail closets is collected from houses in Clare and Cavendish every fortnight by your Refuse Vehicle and Closet Vaults in Clare are emptied by contract.

The Council have a contract employing a firm of Cesspool Emptiers who clear Council House site cesspools every quarter.

Three refuse tips are in use at Kedington, Denston and Wickhambrook.

Rodent Control in these is attended to by your own staff.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Housing	1390
Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation	21
Drainage and Sewage Disposal	201
Water Supply	343
Rodent Control	208
Factories and Shops...	118
Meat and Foods	126
Refuse Collection and Disposal	142
Other Matters	512

HOUSING :

The following information is given in accordance with the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitition	555
2.	The number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers	Nil
3.	The number of representations made to the Council with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	Nil
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made ...	Nil
7.	The number of housing in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act 1930	Nil
8.	The number of houses demolished	Nil

Procedure under the Public Health Act 1936 :—

Housing complaints received (defects)	70
Informal notices sent to Owners	34
Statutory Notices served	1
Court Actions	Nil
Defects Abated	60

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :

Milk Supply :

Retail premises registered	Nil
Designated Licences in force :	
Supplementary	4
Dealers	Nil

Meat and other Foods :

Licensed Slaughter-houses	6
Knacker Yards	2
Licensed Slaughter-men	24

Unsound Food :

Food rejected as unfit for human consumption :

Meat ... ... 68 tons 4 cwts.

Fried Fish Shop :

One at Clare

Offensive Trades :

One Blood drying established at Little Wratting

Ice Cream Premises :

Seventeen premises are registered for sale of ice cream only.

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of the Notifiable Diseases during the year 1954 remained low and calls for no special comment.

Infective Hepatitis is notifiable in this District. No cases were notified.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over	Un-known Age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	(1)	(4)	—	—	—	—	—	(5)
	—	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	14
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	(2)	(5)	(1)	(2)	—	—	—	—	(10)
	1	4	10	3	—	1	—	—	19
Measles.. ..	(2)	(21)	(29)	(58)	(10)	(2)	(1)	—	(123)
	—	1	4	8	—	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	(1)
	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	17	10	27	4	3	7	34
No. of cases added during the year	4	2	6	—	—	—	6
No. of cases removed during year	2	1	3	—	—	—	3
No. remaining on register at end of year	19	11	30	4	3	7	37

Reasons for Removal from Register:

Recovered 4 ; Died 3 ; Left District 2 ; Diagnosis not confirmed 1.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 72 of the Public Health Act., 1836.

SECTION G.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	2			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	35	22			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	18			3
TOTAL		43	42			

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S 1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	9						9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL	60						60

Part VIII. of the Act.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110 No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)
Making Wearing Apparel, etc. ...	13	50
Box-making, etc.	34	31
	Total	81

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.